# State of Maine Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

Monthly Update -April 2012 #36

#### State's Interoperability Vision

The State of Maine will have a firmly established, formally managed and maintainable communications environment, based on technology, protocols, training and usage, that will provide seamless communications capability to all emergency management, first responder, and response support organizations at the local, regional and State levels, enabling them to exchange information via voice and data means, as required by standard NIMS response procedures, to provide effective, coordinated and timely all hazards response to our citizens.

#### **Cross Border Working Groups**

The Cross Border Working Group continues to move forward with outreach meetings with our Canadian partners. Meetings have been held with Quebec on February 7<sup>th</sup> in Farmington, Maine and in Armstrong, Quebec on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Meetings were also held with our New Brunswick partners in Fredericton on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Future meetings are being scheduled now...

On a parallel note, Franklin County received their FCC license which had been held up for many months because of possible interference to Canada. The license was obtained with constant communications from Maine's Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) and the FCC. Thankfully, this license was approved and Franklin County can improve their coverage area and to provide outstanding communication for all agencies.





#### <u>MSCommNet Statewide Outreach</u> Sessions Successful

A series of outreach presentations were held around the State on March 26, 27, 28 & 30th, to provide an update on the MSCommNet project.

The sessions, hosted by the Maine State Office of Information Technology (OIT), were held in Presque Isle, Orono, Augusta, and Portland; and were well attended. The outreach teams thanks those who attended and asked important questions about what MSCommNet, CONOPS, RegionNet, and Narrowband issues.

The presentation slides are available online at <a href="http://www.maine.gov/oit/services/radio/mscommnet/outreach/index.html">http://www.maine.gov/oit/services/radio/mscommnet/outreach/index.html</a>.

**About the project.** MSCommNet is OIT's Maine State Communications Network project. The State of Maine is developing and will commission a modernized and unified land mobile radio network for State law enforcement, public safety, and public service agencies. The new system will utilize portions of the State's existing communications infrastructure with a modern technical foundation that addresses current and future technical needs, regulatory compliance and business requirements. The requirement for interoperability with county, local, and other public safety partners will be fulfilled by the RegionNet function of the new MSCommNet system. Partial implementation commences in the summer of 2012; and final cutover to the new MSCommNet system is scheduled for the summer of 2013.

Source: Tom Driscoll, MSCommNet Project Office, February 4, 2012

#### **CONOPS & PL Tones**

It is very important that when you program your radio to *not* program these frequencies with private line (PL) tones. The purpose of CONOPS is to have simple interoperable channels that all agencies will recognize and utilize at all times.

#### Knox County Radio Pool Purchase

Recently MEMA partnered with Knox County Emergency Management Agency with a radio pool purchase which significantly lowered the cost per radio/pager. This pooled purchase enabled eleven Counties to obtain more equipment at a substantial reduction of cost. This was a very big buy with over 1300 radio units requested. Pooled pricing bids show a clear 47% discount over retail pricing which amounts to a savings of over \$225,000 by pooling the order.

Pooled purchase totals:

- > 369 Mobiles
- ➤ 523 Portables
- > 395 Pagers
- 29 Pager upgrades (of the 395 above) to Stored Voice

#### **POD Exercise**

Last month MEMA conducted a Point of Distribution (POD) exercise at RCM in Chelsea to dispense radio equipment from the Knox County/MEMA radio pool purchase. This limited full scale exercise was sponsored by the Maine Emergency Management Agency. This exercise followed the guidance set forth in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

The exercise provided participants with all the necessary tools for their roles in the exercise. The exercise assisted MEMA in evaluating POD plans and procedures by distributing mobile and portable radios as a result of a large purchase for county EMA's across the state. In approximately 2 hours MEMA, County, and CERT staff dispensed over 1300 mobile and portable radios to 11 Counties, including the tracking of quantities and serial numbers of each radio unit transferred.

#### **ARE YOU READY?**

COUNTDOWN TO MANDATORY
NARROWBANDING
DAYS HRS
262 32
ARE YOU READY?...

#### Border Interoperability Guide (BIG)

The Border Guide (Version 1.0) is available for those that operate in or around the Maine/Canada border. This Guide identifies frequencies, contact numbers, and border crossing sites as well as radio caches strategically placed along the border. Thanks for all those that have contributed to this epic field operation guide. Please contact me if you would like to have a copy. Version 2.0 is anticipated in October 2012.

#### **MOTOROLA AND ICOM BIDS**

For those of you that are wondering about the status of the Motorola and Icom bids, they were just put out this week and are set to close on April 25<sup>th</sup>.



## Contribute to the SCIP Newsletter?

If you would like to contribute articles for upcoming SCIP Newsletters to highlight innovative practices in your respective counties and/or areas, please contact <a href="mailto:Steven.mallory@maine.gov">Steven.mallory@maine.gov</a>

#### Maine Emergency Preparedness Conference

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



4th Annual

# Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference

#### **Augusta Civic Center**

Tuesday & Wednesday • April 24 - 25, 2012

Hosted by: Maine Emergency Management Agency, International Association of Emergency Managers Region 1, State Emergency Response Commission and Maine Association for Local Emergency Managers

Partner with Over 400 • 1st Responders • Government Officials • Emergency Managers • Business Leaders Educators • Health & Human Services Providers • Faith-Based Leaders • Private, Non-Profit Organizations

#### Register online begining January 25, 2012 and

Visit <u>www.maineprepares.com/conference</u> for updates and registration instructions. Don't miss this two day learning and networking experience with preparedness partners and exhibitors.